

Applicant : Doyle E. Bennett et al.  
Serial No. : 10/643,773  
Filed : August 18, 2003  
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Attorney's Docket No.: 05542-511001 / 6214/CMP

### REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending in the application. Claims 1-16 were withdrawn. Claims 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over one or more of U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0077031 to Johansson ("Johansson") and U.S. Patent No. 5,336,997 to Anim-Appiah ("Anim-Appiah"). Claims 19 and 20 are allowable. Please cancel claims 1-18, without prejudice or disclaimer. Please add new claims 21-34.

#### Claims 19-34

Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to include the features of previous claim 17, with some modification. In particular, claim 19 does not require that the eddy current monitoring system receive an eddy current signal from one or more conductive components of the system.

Claims 19 and 20 are in condition for allowance. Claims 21-34 depend from claims 19 and 20, and are thus also in condition for allowance. New claims 21-34 are supported in the specification; for example, at paragraphs 0061 to 0065 and 0079, and originally filed claims 1-18. New claims 27 and 34 are supported, for example, at paragraph 0082 and FIG. 16.

### CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue, or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Claims 19-34 are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this response, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (858) 678-4311.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: 03/15/2005



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